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Boston. March 31. 1841.

My Dear Friend

It was with the most sincere satisfaction that I received your true hearted letter. While the actual position that the real friends of the Slave in this country occupy is so cruelly misapprehended and misrepresented, it is indeed cheering to find that there are those who however widely separated from us in some respects, are still in others, of the same mind and heart. We rejoice that you so fully understand and so justly appreciate the manifold and perplexing difficulties that at present beset our way, and we thank you for your willingness in performing the painful duty of bearing testimony to the purity of a Cause perilled & insulted in so signal a manner by the revolting slanders of those who once claimed fellowship with us. When Slave holders & their acknowledged abettors attack us & we receive assurance of the sympathy of distant friends, we are grateful in heart and strengthened in faith, but we have not the conviction that those distant friends are, as it were, bound with us. Though our position be painful and even dangerous, and despicable too in the eyes of those immediately around us, we yet know that in other lands the sympathy with which men look on those struggling for their own freedom or that of others will be awakened for us, and unchecked by personal interest, will go forth to comfort & aid, for this can be done in many cases with no self sacrifice. But the case is different now with us, and in proportion as the case is altered, do we appreciate the worth of that sympathy which you & other distant friends so generously proffer. To identify your

I believe the box for you was sent to the care of Mr Cropper at Liverpool but I will enquire of Mr Garrison tomorrow before closing this.

April 1. Mr Garrison sent the box by the way of N. York, but as it was sent from the A. S. Office he does not know to whose care. He would have written you but for sickness in his family.

self with us *now* is to be a partaker of the persecutions & trials annoying in proportion to the paltry and malicious character which their authors seem so naturally to give them. The very steamer that brings you this may convey to your shores reiterations of the heartless accusation of Colver & his friends. The Convention called in reference to the Sabbath, Church & Ministry was adjourned to the 30th of March and therefore commenced its session yesterday morning. Messrs Colver & Phelps, Torrey, the present Editor of the Abolitionist, (or what was the Abolitionist, for it has changed its name to Free American) St Clair & Lee & sundry other New organizationists were drawn up as if in battle array. Mr Colver offered a Resolution "that the Convention do regard the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the *only authoratative* Rule of decision in the question before it," which question was the Ministry. I believe I have not stated it quite correctly; it would be better thus "as the supreme & *only authoratative* Rule of faith." The Convention refused to pass this. Wm Bassett & other members of the Society of Friends refused to do so on the ground that they, in common with the great body of Friends, regarded the teaching of the Divine Spirit manifested to their own souls as equally authoratative. It would be idle for me to try to tell you of the violent and abusive attack which the men I have named then commenced on the Convention, declaring that "they should publish the Convention all over the world as an Infidel one if this resolution were not passed; it was a deliberate rejection of the Bible" - Man after man protested against such an inference & W. Bassett inquired of Colver if he meant to brand the Friends in the Broad St Committee as Infidels, for he believed they held the view he had stated. This Colver indignantly denied, and declared that some of the Committee who were Friends had gone so far as to be baptized. Bassett admitted that there had been a schism in the Soc'y in England, but not on the subject of the inner light, for he thought the sentiments he had laid down, adhered to by Joseph Sturge, Allen & others of the Committee. Colver denied this & said the London Yearly Meeting had borne testimony against making any thing equally authoritative with the Scriptures. Subsequently, Mr Earle a Friend from Worcester questioned Mr St Clair who, after several attempts to evade the question, admitted that *if* the Friends *did* hold such views he should brand them as a body of Infidels - I have been thus particular in giving you this account because I thought as *a Friend* you might be interested in it. For myself, I am not familiar with the writings of Friends, but by the manner in which I have occasionally heard members of the Soc'y speak I have presumed that they held to a Divine Illumination which was perceptible at the time to themselves and by which they were to guide their conduct. These men declined in the most insulting manner *to join* the Convention, but now (the close of the 2d day) have oc three fourths of the time with speeches, those speec with the exception of one from Mr Phelps, were comp entirely of attacks upon individuals of so personal and ungentlemanly a character as to rouse the indignation of the whole audience. Their behavior though painful to witness will do good, for Bostonians have been used to a Ministry that was gentlemanly however deficient in other respects, and the gross vulgarity of Colver & frantic passion of Torrey will cause people to examine their reckless statements about others more thoroughly. I forgot to tell you that Colver laid before the Convention a letter addressed to ~~the~~ it by Thomas Clarkson! It was long & not particularly distinguished by ability - It was the usual Bible argument; the sentiments were essentially those to which I myself subscribe, but were not brought forward with much vigour or eloquence. It was read twice to the Convention though the Sabbath was not under discussion and an idea entertained by some of returning an answer from the Convention, but W. L. Garrison very sensibly remarked on the impossibility of writing a letter from a Convention differing so widely in sentiment as to the Sabbath. H. C. Wright has spoken of the present Ministry in their proper character. Mr Torrey [illegible] the ministry of the U States in general as Anti Slavery. The [illegible] Political Convention recently held in Boston was a miserable failure. H. B. Stanton who was expected was not present & I do not think we shall hear much of him as he is beginning the study of the Law. J. G. Birney is going to be married and then the party is without a man to his own peculiar affairs & the [illegible] ground will be left for the [illegible] & [illegible].

Conventions on Ministry
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Anne Warren Weston

Elizabeth Pease
Care of Joseph Pease
Darlington
England

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But in many respects we are greatly encouraged. The Deliverance of the Amistad captives is a bright omen & we received letters from Hayti & the [illegible] the 16th of March. Our accounts are favourable and the letter of our [illegible] abounds full of very interesting information concerning the place & its inhabitants. Maria writes as she has it written at length and you have probably ere this rec'd her letter. They would rejoice to meet you face to face but as Henry's health is improving they will probably return direct to America in June. That we may at some time